

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 14, 15, and 17-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 11, 18 and 22-25 are the independent claims, and claims 1, 7, 11 and 18 have been amended. Claims 22-25 have been added. Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

As a threshold matter, Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the courtesies extended to their representative by the Examiners at the April 27, 2004, Personal Interview. At the Interview, the Examiners and Applicant's representative agreed that the cited prior art, including specifically U.S. Patent No. 5,001,738 to Brooks, did not teach or suggest a structure or method in which a holder may be adjustably positioned. This feature, is a salient aspect of the present invention, as now recited in all of the claims in the present Specification, such as for example at pages 2-4.

More specifically, independent claim 1 as amended is directed to a positioning system for dental x-ray examinations. The system includes an electronic image sensor a sheath covering the electronic image sensor and a holder removably bonded to the sheath by a pressure sensitive adhesive, upon application of the holder to the sheath just prior to positioning. The pressure sensitive adhesive enables the holder to be adjustably positioned on the sheath in a manner that provides optimal coverage of a patient's dental anatomy by the electronic image sensor. Independent claim 11 is also directed to a positioning system for dental x-ray examinations, and generally parallels claim 1, but does not recite the sheath.

Independent Claim 7 is directed to a method for positioning an electronic dental image sensor. The method includes the steps of placing the electronic sensor in a sheath, affixing a holder having a pressure sensitive adhesive coating to the sheath to create a removable bond between the holder and the sheath just prior to positioning the holder and the electronic sensor, and positioning the holder and the sensor within the mouth of the patient. Then, at least one dental image is captured, and the holder is removed from the sheath following the capture of the at least one dental image. As in claims 1 and 11, the pressure sensitive adhesive enables the holder to be adjustably positioned in a manner that provides optimal coverage of the patient's dental anatomy by the electronic sensor.

Independent Claim 18 is also directed to a method for enabling a dental practitioner to position an electronic dental image sensor, and generally parallels Claim 7, but does not recite placing the electronic sensor in a sheath.

Newly added claims 22-25 generally parallel claims 1, 7, 11 and 18, respectfully. However, those claims recite that the pressure sensitive adhesive enables the holder to be adjustably positioned on the sensor or the sheath, as the case may be, in a manner that optimizes patient comfort which the sensor is placed in the patient's mouth.

Thus, all claims recite that the pressure sensitive adhesive enables the holder to be adjustably positioned, either to provide optimal coverage of a patient's dental anatomy, or to optimize patient comfort. Those features are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims are plainly patentable.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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